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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending July 4, 2004, cooler temperatures continued to slow crop development while conditions of crops and pastures improved, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. The third consecutive week of below normal temperatures have caused more reporting stations to drop below normal for Growing Degree Days. Warmer temperatures are needed. Wheat harvest was active and progressing at a near normal pace. Other producer activities included weed control, fertilizer applications, and hay harvest.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from 3 to 7 degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation was statewide with amounts ranging to over three inches.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending July 4, 2004

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	11	13	1	20
Short	21	24	26	27
Adequate	65	61	68	47
Surplus	3	2	5	6
Subsoil				
Very Short	33	37	8	23
Short	28	24	34	28
Adequate	38	38	56	46
Surplus	1	1	2	3
Days Suitable	4.8	5.2	6.0	5.4

Field Crops Report: Corn condition improved and rated 0 percent very poor, 3 poor, 17 fair, 51 good, and 29 excellent, above last year and average. Irrigated fields rated 83 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 75. This compares to 81 and 78, respectively, a year ago. Silking was 3 percent complete, ahead of last year at 1 but same as average.

Soybeans condition improved and rated zero percent very poor, 3 poor, 21 fair, 59 good, and 17 excellent, below last year but above average. Twenty percent of the acreage had bloomed, about 10 days ahead of last year at 1 and a week ahead of average at 8.

Sorghum condition rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 34 fair, 50 good, and 10 excellent, below last year but above average.

Wheat had turned color on 98 percent of the acreage, ahead of last year at 93 and average at 96. Wheat was ripe on 58 percent of the acreage, a few days ahead of last year at 31 and average at 51. Harvest progressed to 25 percent completed, ahead of last year at 11 but behind the 27 percent average.

Oat condition rated 11 percent very poor, 11 poor, 22 fair, 38 good, and 18 excellent. Ninety-six percent of the oats had headed, behind last year at 97 but ahead of average at 95. Harvest was underway with 3 percent cut, ahead of last year at 2 but behind average at 8.

Dry beans were nearly all emerged at 98 percent, ahead of last year and average at 95. Condition rated 2 percent very poor, 16 poor, 35 fair, 43 good, and 4 excellent.

Proso millet planting progressed to 94 percent complete, behind last year at 98.

Alfalfa conditions rated 4 percent very poor, 13 poor, 25 fair, 43 good, and 15 excellent, below last year but above average. Second cutting activities were 37 percent harvested, ahead of last year at 23 and average at 30. Wild hay condition improved and rated 13 percent very poor, 12 poor, 27 fair, 37 good, and 11 excellent.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending July 4, 2004

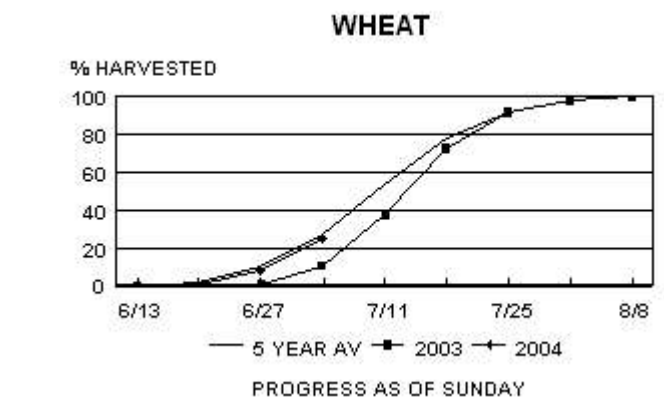
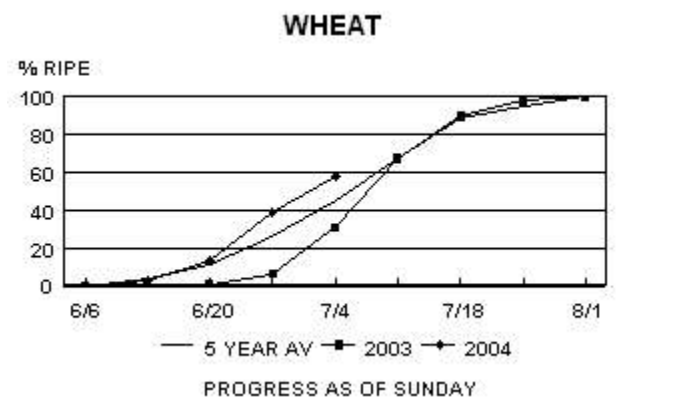
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 2 nd Cutting	37	12	23	30
Corn Silked	3	1	1	3
Oats Headed	96	92	97	95
Oats Harvested	3	1	2	8
Soybeans Blooming	20	3	1	8
Wheat Turning Color	98	89	93	96
Wheat Ripe	58	39	31	51
Wheat Harvested	25	8	11	27

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending July 4, 2004

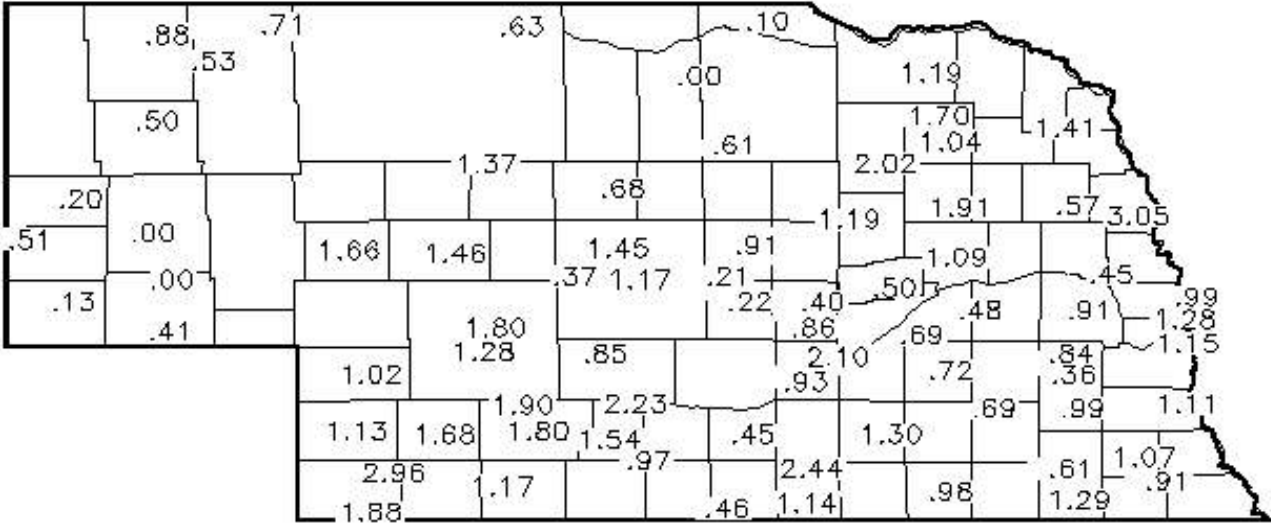
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	4	13	25	43	15
Corn	0	3	17	51	29
Oats	11	11	22	38	18
Sorghum	1	5	34	50	10
Soybeans	0	3	21	59	17

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition improved and rated 13 percent very poor, 18 poor, 31 fair, 31 good, and 7 excellent, but remain below a year ago and average.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2004.htm>.



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending July 4, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - July 4, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.39	.67	1.59	.93	1.01	1.98	1.33	.96
Total since April 1	5.61	9.48	12.99	9.27	9.97	9.25	9.18	12.08
Normal since April 1	7.98	9.41	11.07	10.40	11.50	9.11	10.06	11.55
Total as % of normal	69%	100%	117%	89%	86%	101%	91%	104%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, July 4, 2004

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	89	42	67	-4	123	876	996
	Scottsbluff	90	47	69	-3	128	995	997
	Sidney	89	45	68	-4	122	923	1029
NC	Ainsworth	90	45	71	-3	144	975	1136
	Arthur	85	42	67	-6	122	921	1090
	O'Neill	91	45	70	-5	136	1007	1179
NE	Concord	87	48	70	-5	138	1058	1222
	Elgin	89	49	69	-6	132	1057	1209
	West Point	90	49	71	-5	142	1160	1284
C	Grand Island	89	48	69	-6	130	1217	1213
	Lexington	89	48	70	-4	141	1226	1186
	Ord	89	45	69	-6	125	1121	1194
EC	Lincoln	89	51	72	-5	150	1347	1342
	Central City	91	48	70	-5	137	1230	1233
	Mead	87	48	70	-7	141	1280	1327
SW	Champion	90	48	68	-5	126	1089	1117
	North Platte	89	42	69	-5	134	1127	1130
	Curtis	88	49	70	-4	137	1184	1137
SC	Arapahoe	86	35	66	-7	118	951	1088
	Minden	90	51	70	-5	135	1235	1199
	Red Cloud	93	54	71	-4	141	1298	1229
SE	Beatrice	89	51	71	-6	145	1347	1342
	Clay Center	88	50	69	-6	129	1217	1225
	Nemaha	88	54	72	-5	152	1405	1370

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

ADDRESS

PENALTY
OFFICIAL

Lincoln,
P.O. Box
Nebraska
U. S. De